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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 33

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 4, 2023

## KIDS HELPING KIDS FOR CHRISTMAS



In honor of Jesus' birthday, Ms. Burns' first-grade class and Miss Augenstein fifth-grade class at Trinity Catholic School in Massena teamed up to throw a baby shower to benefit the Gabriel Project. Students collected baby items, and then delivered them to St. Peter's Outreach Ministry during the last week of school before Christmas break.

## YEAR IN REVIEW: A LOOK BACK AT 2022



While events celebrating the Diocese of Ogdensburg's 150th anniversary were spread throughout the year, the Aug. 10 Anniversary Mass was the capstone of the celebration. The Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral on the Feast of St. Lawrence by Cardinal Timothy Dolan from the Archdiocese of New York, joined by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, priests of the diocese, as well as former bishops of the diocese and bishops from around the state and Canada, including former bishops of the diocese. The 150th anniversary was one of the many stories of 2022 featured in the *North Country Catholic*. See highlights from the 150th and other stories in our annual year-in-review edition. Remember the priests, deacons and consecrated religious who passed away this year. Remember the ordinations, the awards, the accomplishments, and the work done to share Christ's love in the North Country as we look back over the year.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Pope prays for peace in Christmas blessing

VATICAN CITY (CNA) – In his Christmas Day blessing, Pope Francis prayed that leaders will listen to the “cries of the Prince of Peace” and bring an end to the war in Ukraine and “the other theaters of this third world war.”

Speaking from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on Dec. 25, the pope offered the traditional “Urbi et Orbi” (to the city and the world) blessing, praying that the Lord will “enlighten the minds of those who have the power to silence the thunder of weapons.”

“If we want it to be Christmas, the Birth of Jesus and of peace, let

us look to Bethlehem and contemplate the face of the Child who is born for us. And in that small and innocent face, let us see the faces of all those children who, everywhere in the world, long for peace,” Pope Francis said.

“Let us also see the faces of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who are experiencing this Christmas in the dark and cold, far from their homes due to the devastation caused by ten months of war. May the Lord inspire us to offer concrete gestures of solidarity to assist all those who are suffering, and may he enlighten the minds of those who have the power to si-

lence the thunder of weapons and put an immediate end to this senseless war!”

As the world celebrates the birth of the Prince of Peace, humanity is experiencing a “grave famine of peace,” the pope said.

The “Urbi et Orbi” blessing – which refers to the pope's dual roles as bishop of Rome and head of the global Catholic Church – is reserved for the most solemn occasions. In this year's Christmas “Urbi et Orbi” address, the pope highlighted specific conflicts around the world, beginning with Ukraine, noting that the war has far-reaching consequences,

“putting entire peoples at risk of famine, especially in Afghanistan and in the countries of the Horn of Africa.”

Pope Francis also mentioned Syria, where he said that the conflict has “receded into the background.”

“Let us think too of the Holy Land, where in recent months violence and confrontations have increased, bringing death and injury in their wake. Let us beseech the Lord that there, in the land that witnessed his birth, dialogue and efforts to build mutual trust between Palestinians and Israelis may resume,” he said.

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# My favorite gift of the season

It was my favorite gift of the season, and it was something wrapped and placed under a Christmas tree.

My son, Jake, who is 15, was asked to serve as the narrator for our parish's kids' Christmas pageant, performed before the start of the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. I'm not sure any of us knew how that would go.

As I've mentioned before, Jake has autism. While he does very well in most situ-

**Darcy L. Fargo**

ations, speech and reading were areas in which he struggled. He had no functional language until he was around 3 years old. He has never really enjoyed reading. He's always found it to be work.

I got a glimpse of what to expect during the rehearsal, but it still left me awestruck when that young man stepped to the lectern and

read fluidly and beautifully with not even the smallest hint of nervousness in his

voice. He seemed proud of himself. My husband and I were proud too.

It almost as gratifying to see how our parish community rallied around him and all the kids who participated in the pageant, as well as those who served during the Mass (there were four altar servers, including Jake). These kids were praised for their participation and encouraged to continue participating. We were encouraged too.

After Mass, my parents joined us at our small home in Moira for a simple dinner.

As he usually does when he's at our house, my father mentioned how glad he is that we didn't buy another house we had toured when we were in the market, a house in another community. We were glad too.

The whole evening was a great reminder that God put us where we're supposed to be and has equipped us with the gifts and graces we need to be there. It also reminded me that I also need to follow God's call and be the kind of person who makes others feel proud, encouraged and glad, as well.

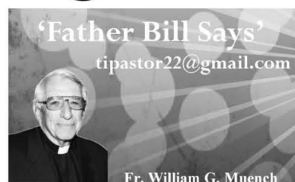
## Considering the season's feast days

As we come to the end of another year, I notice that I have the same memories as the last few years. First, I remember that annual priest's ski trip the first week of January at Mont Tremblant in Canada. I haven't skied in several years, yet I do remember so many happy trips. In fact, I remember one year taking a vacation from the parish in Mollendo, Peru, so I could join that gang for a week of skiing.

This year, there is a touch of sadness in remembering because several of my skiing friends are now with the Lord. Such are the sad realities of life as the years go by. I will be celebrating a special Mass as a remembrance of those happy days and of those friends. May they continue to find peace and happiness with the Lord.

Today, I would also like to share with you my joy as I celebrate the various feast days during the week after Christmas. You see, I truly enjoy the various feast days that the Catholic Church celebrates during this Christmas week.

First, I like having the Christmas decorations at



church in place for these couple of weeks until Epiphany. There is something special about visiting the Church during the day and praying quietly before the Christmas creche. Here we have some large images of the scene right in front of the main altar. This gives me lots of time to fully remember and be impressed as I pray over the Incarnation of our Savior.

Then, there are the feast days that we celebrate during the week after Christmas. I hope you remember them. The day after Christmas the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Stephen, that first deacon and martyr of the early Church. I am certain our permanent deacons find a special spirit and joy in recognizing Stephan's readiness to assist those original apostles. Our deacons are called to have the same dedication and readiness to serve as those first deacons.

Stephen seems to remind today's deacons and the rest of us the importance of having a strong faith and boldness to speak the message of Jesus and to be unafraid to dedicate our lives to the service of our Savior.

The second day after Christmas is the Feast of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist, the apostle of Jesus who was truly close to the Lord Jesus. I read recently that someone remembers John was Jesus' best friend. John wrote a Gospel that we have in the New Testament. There are many personal notes that John adds to his words. John often speaks of an apostle that Jesus loved. We can be certain that he writes of himself. Many of the events in Jesus' life are described in detail, and we know that John was there. His message is that of a loving witness.

There are also three of John's epistles in the New Testament. I have noticed that John's Gospel has a theological, even philosophical tone, but these epistles are very pastoral. He urges the peoples of all time – the letters are written to us all – to be true fol-

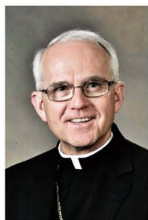
lowers of the Lord by living in the spirit of love as Jesus did. We are called to love one another as disciples of the Lord, as witnesses to being true Christians. These letters are a special gift to us all.

Finally, this year we celebrate on a weekday the Feast of the Holy Family, since there is not a Sunday before the celebration of New Years. As we remember Christmas and celebrate the Birth of Jesus, we remember again with joy and happiness the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. While we know very little about the daily life of the Holy Family, we can only imagine that it was a special time. I like to imagine that it was rather ordinary but also filled with love and peace – a peace that we all pray for as we witness to our loved ones growing up. The only story we have of Jesus as a youth is the finding of Jesus in the temple, that picture of Jesus talking with those religious leaders and being discovered by Mary and Joseph. And then, he goes home with them to Nazareth and lives a blessed family life.

## FOLLOW ME

## Hurry up and wait

It was January 1977. I was a recent arrival in North Chicago, at the Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Center. Weeks earlier I had quit college, searching for a new adventure in life. After all, the ads claimed: *The Navy, not just a job, but an Adventure!* I had no idea what to expect. At that time, there were no sailors in my family who could share a story or two, let alone give me a hint of what was in store for me in boot camp. The country had just elected a new president, Jimmy Carter, who was pretty much unknown to most Ameri-



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**

cans at the time. He was inaugurated into the nation's highest office my first day of boot camp. At that time in my life, I was challenged with many unknowns. In those days, a new Navy recruit was referred to as a "raisin." I can still remember being called a raisin standing in line, one very crisp January morning around 0500. I guess being dressed in dark Navy-blue uniforms topped off with dark blue knitted watch caps, we looked like raisins to the uninformed passer-by. As I stood in line that morning on the frigid banks of

Lake Michigan, the adage, *Hurry up and wait*, became real for me. It was cold! Wait? Wait for what...the unknown!

It's funny how our memory kicks into overdrive when certain things in the present trigger thoughts of events past. I was walking to the office early yesterday morning. I looked up to the dark blue sky which was speckled with bright shining stars outshone by the moon. It was bitterly cold, and I thought of my days as a raisin so many years ago. The skies yesterday morning brought me back to that phrase, *Hurry up and wait*. For what?? The unknown.

As shoppers, we've been hurrying up and

waiting for Christmas since Halloween! We hurried up for Christmas so that we can take down the Christmas tree as soon as the gifts were opened, and wrappings discarded. In such a hurry, we now find the New Year has arrived with all its unknowns.

People of faith struggle with unknowns. People of faith do not have all the answers. While these days I'm wearing a different uniform, I am sometimes, still in a hurry and impatient because I want to have all the answers now. I don't want to hurry up and wait. But prayer brings me back to the realization that we do know all we need to know: **God is Love!** God was born among us to

show us how to manage life's unknowns so that we might enjoy eternity in His loving embrace. It's that simple! It's that difficult!

I pray that as we welcome the New Year, we never tire of learning more and more how much we are loved by God. Our mission as a disciple of Jesus is to allow Him to lead us through the unknowns that 2023 promises to bring. Persevere in inviting your family members back to the Eucharist as we are nourished and challenged to meet tomorrow's unknowns with confidence and courage because, after all, we are Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled! Blessed New Year!

## THANK YOU FOR SHARING IN THE CARING

*The Religious of the Diocese Wish to Thank All of the Generous People Who Contributed to the 2022 Retirement Fund Collection. You Will Be Remembered in Our Prayers.*

### *The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC)*

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Sister Jaquiline Mary Sellappan  
Sister Sahayarani Selvaraj  
Sister Rosie Soosairaj  
Sister Jessintha Xavier

# Year in review: A look back at 2022

With calendars now flipped over to 2023, the North Country Catholic looks back over the stories of 2022.

- Jan. 2 – Father Patrick J. O'Reilly, a retired priest of the diocese, died at the age of 84 at the Midland Regional Hospital in Portlaoise, Ireland, where he had resided since 2014.

- Jan. 5 – Father Adrian Gallagher, then pastor of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks, died unexpectedly at the age of 58.

- Jan. 12 – Father J. Roger McGuinness, a retired priest of the diocese, died at age 82 after more than 55 years of service.

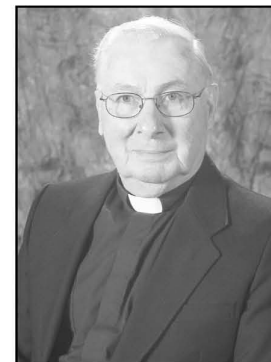
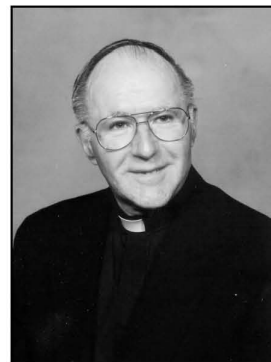
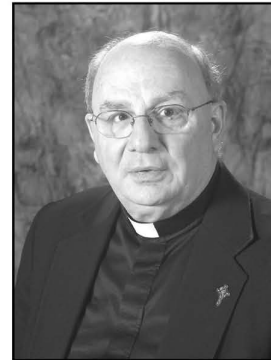
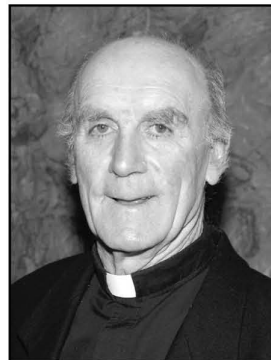
- Jan. 21 – A group of college students from the diocese traveled to the nation's capital to participate in the March for Life.

- Jan. 26 – The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation awarded \$160 million in grants, including 16 grants in the North Country.

- Feb. 11 – Face coverings, made mandatory during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic, became optional at houses of worship around the state.

- Feb. 16 – The Diocese of Ogdensburg's 150th anniversary. The diocese was established Feb. 16, 1872, by Pope Pius IX. While the anniversary Mass was celebrated later in the year, the occasion was marked with a Holy Hour at St. Mary's Cathedral.

- Feb. 22 – Sister Kateri



We pray for the souls of priests from our diocese who passed on to the next life in 2022, including, clockwise from top left, Father Adrian Gallagher, Father Patrick O'Reilly, Father J. Roger McGuinness, Father Peter Berg, Father Rolland Hart and Msgr. Joseph Aubin.

Rose, a Sister of St. Joseph, died at age 94.

- March 2 – After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, registration opened for Camp Guggenheim's 2022 season.

- March 4-5 – Young adults from NET Ministries hosted confirmation retreats in Adams, Massena and Plattsburgh. Also that weekend, the stage at Immaculate Heart Central came alive after two years with no production, as the school's students performed in "Aladdin."

- March 8 – A fire devastated Riverview Tow-

ers, an apartment complex in Ogdensburg. The Diocese of Ogdensburg opened Wadhams Hall, the diocese's former seminary building, to house displaced residents. Catholic Charities, outside agencies and volunteers also aided the residents.

- March 13 – Catechumens from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral for the Rite of Election, when catechumens enroll and publicly express their desire for baptism.

- March 16 – Bishop Terry R. Lavalley announced that Father Pedro Edgardo N. de la

Rosa, known as "Father Jay," had been incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

- March 20 – Father Christopher J. Looby, pastor at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake, was named Irishman of the Year by Knights of Columbus Council 333 in Ticonderoga.

- March 23 – North Country Mission of Hope reported raising \$25,000 for Ukraine in just over a week.

- March 24 – Dr. Rose-Alma "Dolly" McDonald, a commissioned lay minister and communications liaison for St. Regis Mission Church, was featured in an article in The Globe and Mail as representatives of Canada's Indigenous population

traveled to the Vatican to discuss residential schools with Pope Francis.

- March 26 – Sister Jean Theresa Beyette, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, died at age 93.

- March 31 – Parishes, schools, communities of consecrated religious, organizations and individuals submitted reports outlining their participation in the Synod on Synodality throughout the winter and leading up to the March 31 deadline.

- April 2 – Youth from around the diocese gathered at High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid for the annual youth rally, themed "In HIS House."

- May 1 – An icon of St. Joseph and the Child Jesus was blessed by Bishop LaValley at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown. The icon then journeyed around the diocese as part of the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program.

- May 4 – LaValley announced that the 2021-22 Bishop's Fund Appeal had reached its goal of \$1.3 million.

- May 7 – Diocese of Ogdensburg seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald wins the Pinter Scholar Award at the Pontifical College of Josephinum as he graduated magna cum laude from the school's college of Liberal Arts.

- May 9-11 – Diocesan deacons gathered for the annual Deacon Assembly at Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay.

- May 11 – Bishop LaValley announced the appointment of Father Matthew S. Conger to the role of associate director of Vocations.

- May 13 – Bishop

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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# Looking back at 2022

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Terry R. LaValley announced priest assignment changes. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin concluded his time as pastor effective June 29; Msgr. John R. Murphy retired effective Aug. 31; Father Douglas A. Decker was named pastor of The Catholic Community of St. Peter and St. Mary and St. Hedwig in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville; Father James V. Teti was named Pastor of St. Alphonsus and Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake, St. Henry's in Long Lake and St. Therese in Newcomb; Father Tojo Chacko, of the Heralds of the Good News, was appointed pastor of St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parish in Ellenburg; Father Stephen T. Rocker retired to accept a teaching position at Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts in Warner, New Hampshire; Father Garry B. Giroux was appointed pastor of St. Mary's and St. John the Baptist churches in Waddington and Madrid; Father Shane M. Lynch was named pastor of Parish of the Visitation, St. Raymond and St. Patrick's in Norfolk and Brasher Falls; Father Frank Natale, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, was appointed pastor of St. Mary's and St. Paul's churches in Evans Mills and Black River; Father Joseph Kanimea, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, was appointed parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown; Father Thomas E. Kornmeyer was appointed pastor of St. Bartholomew's and St. Anthony of Padua churches in Old Forge, Inlet and Raquette Lake; Father Medenel Angrand



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to 33 individuals from around the diocese at the July 10 Celebration of the Body of Christ, part of the diocese's 150th anniversary celebration.**

was appointed sacramental administrator at St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington, the Catholic Community of Chateaugay and Burke, and the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River; Father Pedro Edgardo de la Rosa was appointed pastor of Holy Angels Church in Altona and St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks; and Father Legon Carlin was appointed parochial vicar in the Catholic Community of St. Alexanders and St. Joseph in Morrisonville, St. Augustine's in Peru and St. James in Cadyville.

• May 16-19 – Priests of the diocese gathered for the annual priest assembly and retreat at Wadhams Hall.

• May 18 – As part of the Eucharistic Revival, a LEAD event was held in both the east and west sides of the diocese discussing the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

• May 18 – Bishop

LaValley celebrated the Jubilee Mass, honoring priests of the diocese who have reached milestone years of service. Those honored included Father Mark R. Reilly and Father James V. Teti for 25 years; Father Daniel L. Chapin and Father Gerald A. Cerank for 50 years; and Father John P. Kennehan for 60 years.

• May 20 – Sister Gabriel Marie Meyer, a Sister of St. Joseph, died. She was 96.

• May 21 – Father Leagon Carlin was ordained by Bishop LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral.

• May 28 – Former and current Guggenheim staff and campers gathered at the diocesan camp to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

• June 6-7 – A two-day LEAD event focused on the Eucharist included Sister Mary Gregory Munger, a Sister of St. Joseph, presenting "Music as Prayer: Its Role in Celebrating Eucharist,"

and Timothy O'Malley, Ph.D., author and director of education at McGrath Institute of Church Life and academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, presenting "Eucharist: Remember. Celebrate. Believe."

• June 10 – Clinton County Legislature presents a resolution celebrating the diocese's 150th anniversary at a confirmation Mass celebrated in Champlain.

• June 10-12 – The Office of Family Life hosted a "Life-Giving Wounds Retreat" for adult children of separated or divorced parents.

• June 24 – The United States Supreme Court issued a 5-4 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturning its nearly 50-year-old decision in *Roe v. Wade*. The ruling emphasized that there is no constitutional right to an abortion in the U.S.

• June 25 – Lukas Gru-

ber, a seminarian for the diocese, was ordained to the diaconate at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam.

• July 3 – Father Peter M. Berg died July 3 in Bennington, New York. He was 81.

• July 10 – Bishop LaValley hosts the Celebration of the Body of Christ, which included an organ recital and Holy Hour, and confers the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Mr. Bruce Paul Bombard, Mrs. Jane Ann Boyea, Mr. James Timothy Brady, Mr. Michael Burtch Bresnahan Jr., Mr. Glenn Robert Burdo, Ms. Starr Lynn Burke, Mr. David Michael Cline, Mrs. Valerie Rose Cline, Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, SSJ, Mrs. Ruth Carol Demarse, Mr. Joseph Edward Denoncourt, Mrs. Patricia Jane Fassett, Mr. Pasquale Anthony Fontana Sr., Deacon Gary Allan Frank, Mrs. Gayle Grace Frank, Mrs. Connie Marie Hatch-Young, Mr. Jeremiah Michael Hayes, Mrs. Eileen Kathryn Hayes, Mr. Gerald Joseph LaValley, Mrs. Darlene Mary Carolyn LaValley, Mrs. Barbara Claire Ludwig, Dr. Victor Werner Ludwig, Mrs. Leslie Ann Marvel, Mr. Angelo Eugene Pietropaoli, Mrs. Suzanne Rosemary Pietropaoli, Mrs. Elsie Lillian Scruggs, Mrs. Mary Catherine Spilman, Mrs. Donna Jean Steenberg, Mr. Daniel Joseph Sweeney, Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ, Mr. Michael James Tooley, Miss Michelle Elizabeth Watkins and Mrs. Linda Young.

• July 17 – Knights of Columbus from around the diocese traveled to Isla La Motte, Vermont,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

**BROWNBAG CHATS BEGIN**

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat during lunchtime via zoom.

**Date:** Wednesdays Starting Jan. 11

**Time:** Noon to 1 p.m.  
**Features:** We will use videos from The Generational Divide: Who's in the Pews with Katie Prejean McGrady available on [revivieparishes.com](http://revivieparishes.com) In each session, we will watch one or two short videos together via zoom and then have an informal discussion. Let Katie help you become an expert on Millennials and Generation Z through a deep-dive into stats and practical ministry applications - perfect for parishes looking to reach (and keep) younger generations of Catholics truly engaged in their faith.

**Contact:** If you would like to join us this series of lunch-time chat discussions, please sign up online at <https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>. For more information, contact Marika Donders at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org).

## ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

Lake Placid – Monthly praise and worship to be held.

**Date:** First Friday of the month  
**Time:** 7 p.m.

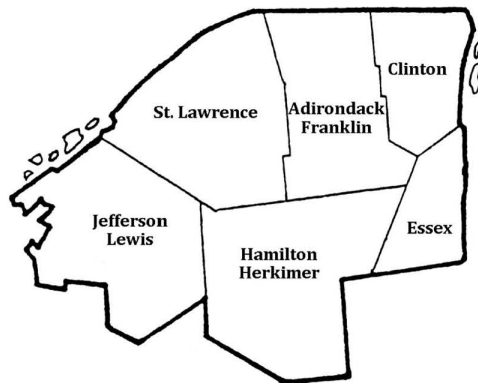
**Place:** St. Agnes Church  
**Features:** Music led by Joey and MC Izzo. Time for fellowship and snacks afterwards. Will be livestreamed as well on St. Agnes Facebook page.

**FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Lake Placid—Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program in Tupper Lake.

**Date:** Jan. 25  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Features:** There is no cost for the training but registration is required. Complementary lunch will be provided. New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
**North Country Catholic**, PO Box 326,  
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
 e-mail [news@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

happier.

**Contact:** To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Education & Volunteer Training Manager, at [abevilacqua@adkmercy.org](mailto:abevilacqua@adkmercy.org) or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

**DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR**

St. Regis Falls – All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** First Saturday of the Month  
**Time:** Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

**Place:** St. Ann's Church  
**Features:** Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

## CLINTON

**ADORATION**

Plattsburgh – Adoration to be held weekly.

**Date:** Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Place:** St. John's in the Holy Family Basement

**Features:** Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus' Presence. Experience His healing power, grace, love and mercy for yourselves and loved ones. Pray for the sick, suffering, vocations, our priests, country and peace in the world.

**Contact:** For more information, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, please contact 518-563-3773.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

**DANCE**

Glenfield – St. John's and St. Martin's Catholic Church, Lyons Falls and Port Leyden will be sponsoring a dance.

**Date:** Jan. 6th  
**Time:** 7 p.m. to 10  
**Place:** 3-G Fire Hall on Blue Street

**Features:** The dance was postponed from November due to inclement weather. Music will be provided by the Patti Stanford Band. There will be food available as well as a basket auction and raffles. Come on out and enjoy the music and help support our area churches.

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus 7471 will be having a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

**Date:** Jan. 14  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$6 per quart  
**Menu:** Includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

**HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY**

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

**Date:** Feb. 5  
**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass  
**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church  
**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Carthage – A pancake breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy sponsored by the Father John Cosmic Council 291 of the Knights of Columbus

**Date:** Feb. 12  
**Time:** 8AM to Noon  
**Place:** St. James Community Room  
**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27  
**Contact:** For more information call 315-493-3224

## ST. LAWRENCE

**MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED**

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morris-town, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

**Features:** These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.

**Contact:** If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

**HOLY HOUR**

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

**Date:** Every Tuesday

**Time:** 4:10 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church  
**Features:** Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

**ROSARY FOR LIFE**

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

**Date:** Every Saturday  
**Time:** 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass  
**Place:** St. Mary's Church

**ADORATION**

Norwood – St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

**Time:** After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon  
**Features:** Sign up is not needed.

**ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS**

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

**Date:** Jan. 7  
**Time:** 8 a.m.  
**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg  
**Features:** Rosary with devotions

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

**Date:** Jan. 7  
**Time:** 3:15 p.m.  
**Features:** First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

**Date:** Jan. 7  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Church  
**Features:** Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center  
**Contact:** Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

**Date:** Jan. 15 (Second Sunday of each month)  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 11:30  
**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

**Contact:** For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

**Schedule:** 3 different times and locations to attend. Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except the Plattsburgh session, which will run 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Features:** Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and

Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D.

**Contact:** to register go [www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically](http://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically). For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

### SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

Experience Sidewalk Advocated for Life's new virtual basic training 2.0.

**Features:** Sidewalk Advocates for Life employs peaceful, prayerful, loving, and law-abiding outreach outside of abortion centers to aid mothers in crisis and connect them with life-affirming resources in the effort to save their preborn children and end abortion. By God's grace, this effort has witnessed over 9,000 women turn around at abortion centers and CHOOSE LIFE!

**Contact:** To get started, fill out the brief application at [sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp](http://sidewalkadvocates.org/trainingapp). Upon receipt, we'll be in touch with next steps for accessing the online training.

### SUMMER CAMP YOUTH DIRECTOR

Saranac Lake - The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an energetic and dedicated individual for the position of Summer Youth Camp Director at the Guggenheim Center.

**Features:** Summer Camp Guggenheim has been a "home away from home" for young people ages 12 to 18 years old since 1972. Hike, Swim, Praise, and a whole lot more! Summer camp Guggenheim is a high energy camp filled with exciting activities and opportunities for campers to experience their faith and joyfully celebrate it.

**Contact:** To apply please visit:

### Rest in Peace

*This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**Jan. 4** - Rev. James Edwin O'Haire, 1877; Rev. Michael Walsh, M.S.C., 1977; Rev. Charles E. Chase, 2011

**Jan. 5** - Rev. Louis Lebret, O.M.I., 1903; Msgr. Dennis E. Lynch, 1979; Rev. Raoul J. Poirier, M.Afr., 1997; Rev. Adrian Gallagher, 2022

**Jan. 6** - Rev. James Dennis Phalon, 1974; Deacon George W. Carroll, 1994; Rev. Benoit Dostie, M.S.C., 2007; Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy, 2018

**Jan. 7** - Rev. Leonidas Geoffrion, 1954; Rev. Vincente F. Jazmines, 2021

**Jan. 8** - Rev. Michael Moris, 1893; Rev. Frederick C. Hatch, 1961; Msgr. Robert John Arquette, 1969; Rev. Leo McCarthy, O.S.A., 1975; Rev. Roland Gaulin, O.M.I., 1984; Rev. Anthony F. Pease, 1997; Msgr. Morris L. Dwyer, 2004

**Jan. 9** - Rev. James P. Santoni, O.M.I., 1890; Rev. Joseph Ferdinand Durin, M.S.C., 1897; Rev. Fred Commins, O.S.A., 1924; Rev. Joseph Edward Doyle, 1958; Rev. Jeremiah Albert O'Brien, 1974

**Jan. 10** - Rev. Christopher C. Poulin, 1904; Msgr. James O'Driscoll, 1913; Msgr. Frederick P. Diviney, 1961

[www.rcdony.org/information/employment](http://www.rcdony.org/information/employment) Questions or inquiries Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 [www.rcdony.org/youth](http://www.rcdony.org/youth)

### To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org).

### Bishop's Public Schedule

**Jan. 4** - Noon - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 5** - Noon - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 6** - Noon - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 7** - 4 p.m. - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 8** - 8 a.m. - Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 9-13** - New York State Bishops' Retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach, Florida

### Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions: **Jan. 9** - 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

### Environmental Stewardship

#### Lesson from the journey of the Wise Men

One of the Christmas E-Cards displayed the three kings on their camels moving towards the Holy Family. While most Nativity scenes show the wise men arriving at a stable, most Scripture scholars agree that it may have taken them two years or more to get to Bethlehem.

Pondering this scene of the slow walking of the camels may cause one to wonder what that journey must have been like.

Why would one take this long arduous journey? Perhaps it was an incredible **faith** that there was someone who would satisfy the longing in their hearts for something more.

What would it have taken to endure this tedious trip? To travel days and months with only a star in the sky to guide them must have required incredible **perseverance**.

What **patience** it must have taken to continue in their search for the more with no guarantee when they would arrive and what they would find at the end of their search.

As we reflect on what God might be calling each of us to be and to do in this coming new year, how might we take some lessons from the Wise Men for our spiritual journey? We too are seeking for more; not more in the material sense but in a spiritual sense like the wise men.

We too seek a better future for all. Recently PBS aired the documentary from Pope Francis entitled *The Letter: A message for Our Earth*. It's also available on YouTube.

In this moving film, Pope Francis meets with supporters of the Laudato Si' movement and talks about the power of humanity to stop the ecological crisis.

This power is within you and me. He urges us to pay attention to what is happening around us and not to become numb to the sufferings of both human community and the earth community.

Why not take time to view this "Message for Our Earth" and consider how the wise men's lessons of faith, perseverance and patience might guide you in your response to it.

### UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

*In re The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York*  
Case No. 20-30663

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT,** On June 19, 2020, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Court has established January 17, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) (the "Supplemental Bar Date") as the deadline to assert claims against the Diocese arising from or relating to abuse that occurred when the survivor was 18 years of age or older, and which, prior to the enactment of the Adult Survivors Act (S.66A/A.648A) would have been subject to a statute of limitations defense ("Adult Claims").

If you have an Adult Claim against the Diocese you must file a claim on or before the Supplemental Bar Date, which will be treated confidentially in accordance with prior court orders in this Case.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/diocesofsyracuse> or call (855) 329-4244 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

**IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**

## Pope on St. Francis de Sales: devotion 'meant for everyone'

(CNA) – Pope Francis Wednesday published a message on St. Francis de Sales, a saint who teaches us that “devotion [to God] is meant for everyone, in every situation.”

The pope's apostolic letter, titled *Totum amoris est*, or “Everything Pertains to Love,” was published on Dec. 28, the 400th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales' death in 1622.

The title comes from the preface of the Swiss saint's book “Treatise on the Love of God,” in which he wrote that “In Holy Church, everything pertains to love, lives in love, is done for love and comes from love.”

St. Francis de Sales was a priest and bishop who taught against Protestant heresies and encouraged holiness in all people, no matter their vocation. He is known for his spiritual writings, including two books that are still widely read today: “An Introduction to the Devout Life” and “Treatise on the Love of God.” In 1877, he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church.

“On this anniversary of the fourth centenary of his death, I have given much thought to the legacy of Saint Francis de Sales for our time,” Pope Francis said in his apostolic letter. “I find that his flexibility and his far-sighted vision have much to say to us.”

“Today he bids us set aside undue concern for ourselves, for our structures and for what society thinks about us, and consider instead the real spiritual needs and expectations of our people,” the pope noted.

Commenting on St. Francis de Sales' teachings, Pope Francis said “devotion is meant for everyone, in every situation, and each of us can practice it in accordance with our own vocation.”

“As Saint Paul VI wrote on the fourth centenary of the birth of Francis de Sales, ‘Holiness is not the prerogative of any one group, but an urgent summons addressed to every Christian: “Friend, come up higher” (Lk 14:10). All of us are called to ascend the mountain of God, albeit not each by the same path.’”

“Devotion,” Paul VI said, quoting St. Francis, “must be practiced differently by the gentleman, the craftsman, the chamberlain, the prince, the widow, the young woman, the wife. Moreover, the practice of devotion must be adapted to the abilities, affairs and duties of each.”

### FALSE DEVOTION

In his letter, Pope Francis reflected on what St. Francis de Sales called “false de-

vation” and its relevance for our spiritual lives today.

“Francis’ description of false devotion is delightful and ever timely. Everyone can relate to it, since he salts it with good humor,” the pope explained.

De Sales wrote: “Someone attached to fasting will consider himself devout because he doesn’t eat, even though his heart is filled with bitterness; and while, out of love for sobriety, he will not let a drop of wine, or even water, touch his tongue, he will not scruple to drench it in the blood of his neighbor through gossip and slander. Another will consider himself devout because all day long he mumbles a string of prayers, yet remains heedless of the evil, arrogant and hurtful words that his tongue hurls at his servants and neighbors. Yet another will readily open his purse to give alms to the poor, but cannot wring an ounce of mercy from his heart in order to forgive his enemies. Another still will pardon his enemies, yet never even think of paying his debts; it will take a lawsuit to make him do so.”

“All these,” Pope Francis said, “of course, are perennial vices and struggles, and they lead the saint to conclude that ‘all these fine people, commonly considered devout, most surely are not.’”

### TRUE DEVOTION

The pope explained that St. Francis de Sales taught that true devotion, instead, is found in “God’s life dwelling within our hearts.”

“True and lively devotion presupposes the love of God; indeed, it is none other than a genuine, and not generic, love of God,” the saint said.

Pope Francis said: “In Francis’ lively language, devotion is ‘a sort of spiritual alertness and energy whereby charity acts within us or, we act by means of it, with promptness and affection.’ For this reason, devotion does not exist alongside charity, but is one of its manifestations, while at the same time leading back to it.”

“Devotion is like a flame with regard to fire: it increases the intensity of charity without altering its quality,” the pope said, adding a quote from St. Francis de Sales, who said: “Charity is a spiritual fire that, when fanned into flame, is called devotion. Devotion thus adds nothing to the fire of charity but the flame that makes charity prompt, active and diligent, not only in the observance of God’s commandments but also in the exercise of his divine counsels and inspirations.”

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Vatican shares prayer for Benedict XVI's health

VATICAN CITY (CNA) – The Vatican's news service posted a prayer for the health of Benedict XVI on Wednesday, after Pope Francis asked Catholics to pray for the “very ill” pope emeritus. At the end of his weekly public audience on Dec. 28, Pope Francis said: “I ask to all of you a special prayer for the pope emeritus Benedict, who, in silence, is sustaining the Church.” “Remember him – he is very ill – asking the Lord to console him and to sustain him in this testimony of love for the Church until the end.” Shortly afterward, the Vatican's spokesperson, Matteo Bruni, confirmed that the 95-year-old Benedict XVI's health had worsened “in recent hours.” The president of the Italian bishops' conference, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, said Wednesday the bishops are praying for Benedict XVI. “At this time of suffering and trial, we gather around the Pope Emeritus,” the cardinal said in a Dec. 28 statement. “We assure remembrance in prayer in our churches, in the knowledge, as he himself had reminded us, that ‘no matter how hard the trials, difficult the problems, heavy the suffering, we will never fall out of the hands of God, those hands that created us, sustain us and accompany us on the journey of existence, because they are guided by an infinite and faithful love.’”

### Basilica offers virtual tour of the joyful mysteries

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNA) – The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., is inviting the faithful to take a virtual tour of its Joyful Mysteries Chapels in celebration of Christmas. “Virtually tour the Joyful Mysteries Chapels, celebrating the jubilation of the Messiah's birth and early life!” the basilica announced in a tweet on Dec. 25. The five adjacent chapels located in the church sanctuary depict the five joyful mysteries of the rosary: The Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation in the Temple, and the Finding in the Temple. Each chapel tells the story of its respective mystery in colorful, glittering mosaics, along with a parallel scene from the Old Testament. For those who are unable to visit in person, the basilica offers a free immersive virtual tour located on its website. To experience the virtual tour, visit <https://t.co/VQVmyuChgA>.

### First known Nativity scene figurines are on display

ROME (CNA) – The first known Nativity scene figurines are currently on display in one of Rome's oldest basilicas. The underground Chapel of the Nativity in the Basilica of St. Mary Major – known to Italians as Santa Maria Maggiore – once contained at least six marble Nativity statues sculpted by Arnolfo di Cambio in the late 13th century. The public can now view these Nativity figurines in the Marian basilica's Sistine chapel, located to the right of the main altar. The figurines were commissioned in 1292 by Pope Nicholas IV, the first Franciscan pope, who was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, the creator of the first living Nativity in Greccio, Italy, in 1223. Sante Guido, an art historian and professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, told EWTN that five of the marble statues in the Nativity scene today are original to the 13th century. It is unclear how many figures in total made up the Nativity scene commissioned by Nicholas IV, but the marble figures that exist today of St. Joseph, the three Magi, and a single work depicting both a cow and a donkey are part of the original set.



## CALLED TO SERVE

## Let it snow, let it snow

There is a scene in the classic Christmas show, *Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer*, showing the star, Rudolph, with his powerful headlight nose leading the reindeer team and Santa through the snow-covered earth on Christmas night. I've always thought it showed an unrealistic amount of snow, but I wrote that off to the imagination of the producer.

Until this past Christmas weekend.

My wife, Kathy, and I, and our daughter Ticia, are veterans of the 1977 blizzard. That storm chose a weekend to grace us too. We filled the time back then as best we could occasionally watching the windblown snow fall. The snow then was falling horizontally.

This storm rivaled that blizzard.

If you live in the western part of the diocese, you know what havoc the 2022 winter storm Elliott wrought. Snow in multiple feet, not inches, started falling Friday, December 23, and kept falling in the region east of Lake Ontario and throughout Western and Central New York to Tuesday, December 27.

Buffalo got most of the national publicity. A couple of dozen people died in Erie County alone because of the snow and temperatures.

As of this writing, no deaths were attributed to the weather in our region. The theory is that hearty North Country residents are used to lots of snow. We can deal with it. We respect the

snow.

Many parishes in the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery cancelled Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses because of the travel bans issued by jurisdictional municipalities. Midnight Mass was cancelled at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Parishes took advantage of streaming technology, forced on us by the pandemic a couple of years ago, to make Mass available to shut ins. In theory, everyone in this part of the world was "shut-in" because of the travel ban. Kathy and I watched Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrate Mass with Father Joseph Morgan and Deacon William O'Brien Christmas morning. A camera view from the choir loft leads us to believe there were not many people in attendance at the 8 a.m. Mass—maybe a dozen.

A neighbor cleared our front

walk with his snowblower a couple of times over the weekend. Otherwise, we just hunkered down and "celebrated" Christmas alone. It was nice but eerie.

The experience helped me understand the challenges some people face who live alone or are separated from friends and family. We thanked God this Christmas for our health, sufficient food and shelter. Less crucial but also important, we were thankful for uninterrupted electrical service and heat.

Bless all those who gave up their Christmas with family to protect and defend the rest of us against Elliott and who knows what else. Happy New Year!

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

## Informal poll shows favorite Christmas carols

By Jonah McKeown  
Catholic News Agency

For the second year in a row, we at CNA conducted an informal poll on social media to determine which Christmas carol reigns supreme as our readers' favorite. To simplify things, the only choices we gave you to choose from were the top 12 carols (in the U.S. only, sorry) from last Christmas, as determined by the music streaming service Spotify.

(I cannot emphasize enough how unscientific this poll was. Remember, it's all just for fun!)

And so, without further ado, the results for 2022 are as follows:

This is the second year we've done this poll. And frankly, I found this year's results a bit surprising – but also very gratifying.

For one thing, my personal favorite carol – "O Come All Ye Faithful" – took the crown this year! I love this carol because of its beautiful message urging us to come before our newborn Lord and adore him – and also because, from a lyrical and musical standpoint, it just really lends itself to being belted out on Christmas morning at Mass.

Last year, "O Come All Ye Faithful" didn't even place in the poll, a fact that I bemoaned at the time. Again, I strongly associate both "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," which placed second, with Christmas Mass during the day.

The two carols that took home third and fourth place are both mainstays of Christmas Midnight Masses, in no

small part because both of them have "night" in their name – "Silent Night" and "O Holy Night." Those two carols took home the gold and silver medals last year, respectively.

There were a couple of other surprises. Last year, the occasionally controversial song "Mary Did You Know?" didn't get a whole lot of love, finishing dead last. But this year, it turned in a much better performance, finishing middle of the pack. Also finishing near the middle was a carol that was not a contender last year: "We Three Kings." (Arguably an Epiphany Carol, but still very appropriate for airtime on Christmas Day.)

"What Child is This?" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," both originating from England, finished middle of the pack

last year, but this year "What Child is This?" finished last, and "Gentlemen" exited the poll entirely. Not sure what to make of that one.

The American standard "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "The First Noel," also English, finished near the bottom.

Here are the full results (again, it's not scientific, it's just for fun. Merry Christmas!):

- 204 votes for "O Come All Ye Faithful"
- 189 votes for "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
- 162 votes for "Silent Night"
- 161 votes for "O Holy Night"
- 113 votes for "Joy to the World"
- 64 votes for "Mary Did You Know?"
- 59 votes for "We Three Kings"
- 55 votes for "Do You Hear What I Hear?"
- 42 votes for "The First Noel"
- 41 votes for "Little Drummer Boy"
- 40 votes for "What Child Is This?"
- 40 votes for "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Mary, Mother of God & Epiphany

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

This feast goes all the way back to the Council of Ephesus in the year 431 A.D. when the Church officially recognized the Divinity of Christ and recognized Mary as the Theotokos – the Mother of God.

In the first reading we have an ancient blessing that Jewish fathers gave to their children: “The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.”

This blessing is a welcome assertion that we dwell always in the presence of the Holy One, that we are attended to by God, that all that transpires on earth is meant to lead to peace, graciousness, and kindness. We are meant to be a blessing to one another as God has blessed us.

St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians is the only place St. Paul mentions Mary, not by name, but as “the woman.” It really concentrates on her child, what this child of hers has done for the world, and for us. “When the designated time had come, God sent forth his Son born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted sons.”

“Now that that time has come, we are no longer under that guardian, and you are,

all of you, sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. All baptized in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there is no more distinction between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus...” We are no longer slaves, but free sons.

Our relationship with God is now all about the intimacy of children, and about faith and freedom, baptism, and belonging to God in a closeness that was unthinkable before. At Christmas and the New Year, we must reflect on the gift and the blessing that God offers us in Christ. It is completely opposed to violence, war, discrimination, nationalism, greed, selfishness, and the callousness of human beings one to another.

Today is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. When the Church had the courage at the Council of Ephesus in 431 to declare that Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but the Mother of God, they are declaring their faith in who Jesus is – that Jesus is God. Mary is the Mother of God by God’s gracious favor and blessing and by Mary’s obedience to the will of God.

In the Gospel, we find Mary and Joseph and the Infant. Mary doesn’t tell the shepherds who Jesus is. The Shepherds tell Mary who Jesus is. They are the first evangelizers, and when they go back to their everyday work, we can imag-

## January 1 & January 8

### Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

#### READINGS

Numbers 6:22-27

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

### Feast of the Epiphany

#### READINGS

Numbers 6:22-27

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

ine how many hundreds they must have told that same news.

Mary the woman has much to reflect upon, much to treasure, and much to ponder. Jesus is the Word of God, made flesh of her flesh, and born of the Spirit of God that quickened in her and overshadowed her. She brought forth a child both God and human. The church says that anything we say of Mary, we also say of ourselves. We are to listen to the Word of God and let the Spirit overshadow us and let God’s Word take flesh in us. We are “to bear God to the world.” Like her, we must hold God in our hearts, let the child be born there and grow to maturity there and take over our lives.

Mary spent her whole life pondering all of this in her heart. She appears again at Pentecost to help form the new Church. The intimacy between Jesus and this new family of God is based on obedience to the Word and taking this Word into one’s heart.

All of this is worth treasuring and pondering on New Year’s Day, and in this season. On this first day of the year, we are invited into the practice of contempla-

tion, of treasuring God’s Word and presence in our lives. We are encouraged to learn devotion and faithfulness from Mary, who finds great favor with God and gives birth to such hope and love.

### Feast of the Epiphany

The word “epiphany” means a sudden burst of understanding and meaning. Today’s feast celebrates the revealing of Jesus’ coming for all the nations. Isaiah had foretold that “all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God” – that His people would eventually be the chosen ones. “...to those who did accept Him, he gave power to become children of God.” And now, on the Epiphany, the light from the skies is intensified a hundred, a thousand-fold, and the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that “nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.”

To the amazement of all in that region, there come foreign camels bearing foreign scholars – wise men – kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What courage and perseverance those strangers have shown to brave the dangers of travel, skepticism, and political intrigue. But they found what they were looking for. That star gave trustworthy guidance and now triumphantly shines as guard over the lowly dwelling wherein rests the child who possesses all meaning. They fall to their knees in homage, for their learning has made them humble, and their wisdom leads them

to recognize the Divine in the fragile flesh of a child.

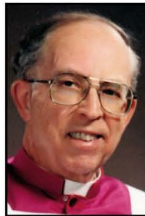
What a silent adoration! What loving glances they exchange with Mary and Joseph.

But for all their simple faith, their wisdom is sharp enough to detect the sham delight and murderous intentions of the wily Herod. And so, they pay their respects, leave their gifts, and modestly depart for their homeland, sorrowfully aware of the terrible price justice must pay for Peace.

Their role in history has been accomplished – to teach us all to follow the guidance of the Almighty, to accept our own role as bearers of the Light, and to follow this Christ into His mission, to partake of His passion, and to join the millions through the ages who will preach His Gospel of universal salvation.

The Son of God is the one judge and arbiter of truth and the one source of light, but we are all called to be “epiphanies,” providing glimpses of that truth, showing the way in our own small spots of time and circumstance to a larger plan and destiny.

Princely Child, make of us all wise men and courageous women, obedient children who will follow wherever you lead us. That means being faithful to prayer, diligent in imitating the enthusiasm and guidance of Pope Francis in sharing with those seeking the Light. This is the way for us to be light-bearers, helping banish the darkness and confusion in the world in which we live.



**Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore**



**The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.**

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

# Extending Christ's ministry & Healing

Christmas should be a season of joy for Christians worldwide, particularly for children who are called by their name in God's redeeming glory.

Yet three-year-old Daria in Bucha, Ukraine, will have a tough time celebrating after losing the warmth of the family home to shelling.

Seven-year-old Abdi, from northern Ethiopia, will struggle to find joy after two years of hunger, a product of the severe drought and conflict afflicting his country.

The children of Matagalpa in Nicaragua, where the Christian faith is subordinated to the fears and ambitions of the powerful, will be afraid of celebrating the season with their community during Midnight Mass following the arbitrary arrest of the local bishop and several priests.

These stories reflect the reality of children in 1,200 mission dioceses worldwide, where missionary women and men who represent a Church that is often incredibly young and materially poor will struggle to communicate the true joy of the season.

Missionaries are not just doing charity throughout the world: They are extending Christ's healing and His entire ministry to people in dire need of it. They are building churches, educating children, and healing physical and psychological wounds caused by war, cruelty, oppression, terror, and despair. They are bearing witness to the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am reaching out to you today to ask you to help the children and by praying for them and by adding the Christmas Appeal to your donation list. In donating to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you will be helping the Universal Church make Christ present throughout the world, particularly where He has been doubted, ignored, and shunned.

With my prayers for your intentions throughout the Christmas Seasons, may God bless your kind missionary heart and the love you send into the world.

Gratefully in His mission,

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ  
Diocesan Director

## OBITUARIES

**Brushton** – Aletha “Lea” (Frazier) Sabin, 77; Private Services to be held.

**Canton** – Sheryl S. (Short) Smith, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 19, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

**Champlain** – Rita Marie Cote Beard, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Chazy.

**Champlain** – Frances (Bechard) Major, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

**Constable** – Alan Jones, 67; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

**Constableville** – Patricia Catherine Jackson, 85; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2022 at the Mills Funeral Home, Boonville; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Port Leyden.

**Harrisville** – Donald G. Mallette, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Garrison Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Raymond M. McIntyre, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 19, 2022 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Anna R. (Schindler) Hirsche, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Glendale Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Mary “Ann” (Burkhard) Hornig, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

**Lowville** – Harold R. Reape, 84; Services in the spring; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

**Malone** – Carla (Pecore) Amyotte, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Malone** – Kenneth C. Cring, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Donald Williams, 78; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2022 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Malone** – Marjorie (Hinman) Perry, 97; Graveside Services in the spring at St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Massena** – Helen I. (Smutz) Kennedy, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

**Massena** – Kay Francis (Rush) Kirkey, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2022 at St. Mary's Church.

**North Bangor** – Gloria B. Charland, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2022 at St. Augustine's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Diane Frances (Skelly) Perretta, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2022 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Peru** – Charles Joseph Fournier, 58; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2022 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Matthews Cemetery, Black Brook.

**Plattsburgh** – Jacqueline M. (Fleming) Luck, 86; Mass of Christian Burial

Dec. 29, 2022 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Gerald ‘Tonny’ Snide, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Franziska Bronicki, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Richard F. Sayles, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 20, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Lake Clear.

**St. Regis Falls** – Dorothy M. Jan-drew, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2022 at St. Ann's Church.

**Tupper Lake** – Craig William Bowman, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 3, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

**Watertown** – Elizabeth “Betty” J. (Altmire) Gerstenschlager, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2022 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Sean P. Lyng, 45; Services to be held at a later date.

**Watertown** – Francis E. Scovel, 65; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2022 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

**Willboro** – Richard Paul Smith, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 19, 2022 at St. Philip of Jesus Church.



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## SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE FOR CHRISTMAS



Volunteers with St. Peter's Outreach, part of St. Peter's Parish in Massena, used St. Joseph's Church, an oratory, to distribute Christmas gifts and meals to families in need in the greater Massena area on December 14 and 15. Over 300 households were served.

## Looking back at 2022

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

for the 74th annual New York State Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage. At this year's event, participants honored the memory of longtime pilgrimage organizer Bill "The Colonel" Ose, who died in April.

- Aug. 10 – Cardinal Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York was the principal celebrant for the Diocese of Ogdensburg's 150th Anniversary Mass, held on the Feast of St. Lawrence at St. Mary's Cathedral. Cardinal Dolan was joined in celebrating the Mass by Bishop LaValley, priests of the diocese, as well as former bishops of the diocese and bishops from around the state and Canada, including Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, Diocese of Syracuse and originally a priest from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, bishop

emeritus of Syracuse and former bishop of Ogdensburg, Bishop Paul S. Loverde, bishop emeritus of Arlington and former bishop of Ogdensburg, Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, bishop of Palm Beach and former bishop of Ogdensburg, Bishop Robert J. Brennan, bishop of Brooklyn, Archbishop Michael Mulhall, archbishop of Kingston, and Archbishop Marcel Dampousse, archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, Bishop Noel Sirmard, Bishop of Valleyfield.

- Aug. 13 – Father Roland A. Hart died in Williston, Vermont, where he had been residing. He was 85.

- Aug. 14 – Deacon Lawrence "Larry" Morse died at Gouverneur Hospital. He was 76.

- Aug. 16 – Deacon James Carlin became executive director of North Country Mission of Hope, replacing the organization's longtime director

and founder, Sister Debbie Blow, who stepped down for health reasons.

- Sept. 2-4 – Rachel Vineyard, an after-abortion healing program, returned to the diocese after a two-year pause caused by the pandemic.

- Sept. 11 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Marriage & Consecrated Life Jubilee Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

- Sept. 11 – Sister Ronald Marie Hax, a Sister of St. Joseph, died at age 74.

- Sept. 16 – Bishop Terry R. LaValley served as the grand marshal of the Peru Applefest Parade.

- Sept. 23 – St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake was presented with a New York State Assembly Proclamation to commemorate the school's centennial anniversary.

- Sept. 25 – Bishop LaValley celebrated the

Blue Mass, honoring and praying for those who serve in law enforcement, corrections, EMS and fire departments at St. Mary's in Clayton.

- Oct. 2 – Lifechains, peaceful, prayerful protests, were held in Plattsburgh, Potsdam and Saranac Lake to kick off Respect Life Month.

- Oct. 14 – After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the annual Superintendent's Day, a gathering of Catholic school teachers and administrators, returned. The 2022 event was held in Lake Placid.

- Oct. 23 – St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg celebrates its 70th anniversary.

- Nov. 2 – Catholic Charities holds its Caritas Dinner for the first time since 2019. The event honored Catholic Charities staff; Caritas Award winners Annette Dame of Malone and the Loaves and Fishes Program run

by St. Peter, St. Mary and St. Hedwig churches; Legacy Award winners Christian Gratto, Maria Tartaglia and Sharon Nebbia; and President's Award winner Michael Tooley.

- Nov. 13 – Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, a Sister of St. Joseph, was awarded the Lighting the Fire for Catholic Education award from the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York.

- Nov. 19 – Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin died at CVPH in Plattsburgh. He was 94.

- Nov. 26 – Sister Cecilia Marie Hermann, a Sister of St. Joseph. She was 80.

- Nov. 30 – Deacon Elliot Shaw of Ticonderoga died at the age of 82.

- Dec. 21 – Bishop LaValley officially released the Diocese of Ogdensburg's synod report.